

REMARKS

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on October 6, 2004 ("Office Action"). Presently, Claims 1-15 and 24-31 are pending in this application. The Office Action made a three-way restriction requirement between Claims 1-15 (Group I), Claims 24-26 (Group II), and Claims 27-31 (Group III).

In response to the restriction requirement issued in this application, applicants elect without traverse Group I, Claims 1-15, for prosecution in this application. Prior to examination of these claims, applicants respectfully request that the claims added by this amendment be entered. Claims 24-31 have been canceled without prejudice to filing divisional applications including these claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should he have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR  
JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service in a sealed envelope as first class mail with postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below date.

Date: November 4, 2004

Mary Prior

CJF:mgp

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for any extensions of time of the appropriate length required upon the filing of any reply during the entire prosecution of this application. A copy of this document is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR  
JOHNSON KINDNESS<sup>PLLC</sup>



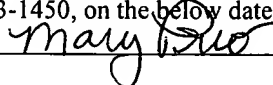
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